

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01 IO-14 SAM-01 DRC-01 /127 W

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R 210546Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8888

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJECT: NEWSWEEK PERISCOPE ITEM

1. IN THE PERISCOPE SECTION OF THE SEPTEMBER 23 ISSUE OF NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE THERE IS AN ITEM WHICH SAYS THAT US OFFICIALS IN SAIGON ARE TRYING TO PERSUADE PRESIDENT THIEU TO HOLD COUNTRY-WIDE ELECTIONS INCLUDING VIET CONG PARTICIPATION AND THAT "THIEU HAS BEEN TOLD THAT UNLESS HE MAKES SOME MOVE TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING THE CEASE-FIRE HE WILL HAVE A TOUGH TIME CONVINCING THE US CONGRESS THAT HE DESERVES MORE MILITARY AID."

2. WE HAVE TALKED TO THE LOCAL NEWSWEEK REPRESENTATIVE IN SAIGON WHO IS AMAZED AND DISTURBED BY THIS ITEM AND DISCLAIMS HAVING FILED ANYTHING THAT WOULD SUPPORT THIS CANARD.

3. ANNOYING AS IT MAY BE I AM NOT SO MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT THE NEED FOR US TO CORRECT THIS KIND OF FALSEHOOD HERE IN SAIGON. WE ARE RECONCILED TO THE FACT THAT THIS IS WHAT WE ARE BEING PAID TO DO. WHAT IS TROUBLESOME IS THAT STATEMENTS TO THE EFFECT THAT US OFFICIALS IN SAIGON ARE TELLING PRESIDENT THIEU THAT "HE MUST MAKE SOME MOVE TOWARD IMPLEMENTING THE CEASE-FIRE" ARE MUSIC TO THE EARS OF THE LEADERSHIP IN HANOI AND COULD NOT POSSIBLY BE BETTER DESIGNED TO FURTHER ENCOURAGE NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFENSIVE MILITARY OPERATIONS AND A CONTINUATION OF THE VIRTUALLY TOTAL

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DISREGARD WHICH HANOI HAS SHOWN FOR THE CEASE-FIRE PROVISIONS OF

THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

4. SINCE THE ITEM OR ANYTHING SUGGESTING IT DID NOT COME
FROM HERE IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF SOMEONE IN THE DEPARTMENT COULD
SPEAK TO A RESPONSIBLE
NEWSWEEK OFFICIAL TO TRY TO DETERMINE WHERE IT DID ORIGINATE AND
ALSO TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT. THE MANAGING EDITOR OF NEWSWEEK
INTERNATIONAL WILL BE HERE EARLY NEXT WEEK AND I WILL CERTAINLY
TAKE IT UP WITH HIM.
LEHMANN

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Message Attributes

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